

## **Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee**

**Thursday, August 1, 2002**

Chair Herro called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Present:** Supervisor Ken Herro (Chair), Jim Jeskewitz, Paul Pronold, Carl Seitz, Alicia Silva, and Sandy Wolff. **Absent:** Mar eth Kipp.

**Also Present :** Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Adolescent & Family Services Manager Pat Voss, and Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz.

### **Approve Minutes of June 13, 2002**

**MOTION:** Jeskewitz moved, second by Wolff to approve the minutes of June 13, 2002. Motion carried 6 -0.

### **Read Correspondence**

Herro received a copy of an advisory resolution passed by the Price County Board of Supervisors calling for state funding of long -term mental health inpatient care at state institutions for mental disease. Also attached was a copy of a letter from State Department of Health & Family Services Secretary Phyllis Dube' explaining that until there is federal legislative change, counties will likely continue to bear the burden of costs associated with long -term mental health inpatient treatment at state institutions.

### **Schedule Next Meeting Dates**

August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Herro said the Executive Committee approved Resolution 157 -R-003 entitled "Support Sale of Old Courthouse Facility to Waukesha County Historical Society and Direct County Administration to Develop Ten Year Agreement for Museum, Arts and Cultural Center Operation by the Waukesha County Historical Society." Because this was referred back to committee at the County Board level, this will be taken up again at the next Executive Committee meeting. Ordinance 157 -O-039 entitled "Waukesha County Determination of Necessity and Relocation Order for the Expansion of the Waukesha County Justice Center, Waukesha County Project 200108" will also be taken up at the next meeting.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Esler suggested a future joint meeting with the Health & Human Services Board to discuss the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA).

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Update on Department of Health & Human Services 2002 Departmental Objectives**

- **Adolescent & Family Services Division #1: In collaboration with the Victim Witness Program, community service providers and volunteers, develop and implement victim impact panels, community panels and other restorative justice initiatives to augment**

**accountability services for juvenile offenders and promote a community response to juvenile delinquency.**

Voss said they have succeeded in establishing a victim impact panel for juveniles in collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, the Mediation Center of Waukesha, and Wisconsin Correctional Services (WCS). Voss noted that Judge Ramirez was instrumental in developing this program and they were able to acquire federal Juvenile Accountability and Incentive Block Grant funds for this program. The grant allowed them to expand their contract with WCS and the mediation program. The expansion was designed to provide a similar service to juveniles who can't participate in individual one-on-one victim/offender mediation for whatever reason. It's up to the victim whether they want a mediation session with the offender but there are real times when juveniles don't have the proper attitude. Staff will track participants for recidivism.

- **Administrative Services Division #1: Provide a departmental presence on the county's website and intranet; #8: The Criminal Justice Coordinating Task Force will consider the data and programmatic input from their deliberations in order to produce a set of recommendations for consideration in the development of education, prevention and treatment programming designed to reduce the jail population and future need for jail expansion.**

Kutz referred to objective #1 and said they weren't able to complete this objective by the end of the second quarter but it has started. Human Services staff has been meeting with Information Systems staff to review web development on a countywide level and how Human Services can present their department's programs, etc. on the website. It'll somewhat mirror how the budget book is laid out and how the divisions are set up. There will also be outside e-mail capabilities. This will also be in the 2003 budget book as an objective to be completed near year-end 2002. With regard to the Intranet, the County's internal website, they are planning on listing policies and procedures that staff may need to reference which should save staff time. This includes the State Administrative Code, State Statutes, etc.

Regarding objective #8, Kutz distributed copies of "Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Year 2003 Budget Summary." The Task Force will propose to the County Executive to continue the current post-release transitions social worker case management position, fund one new Criminal Justice Support Coordinator, one contracted Criminal Justice Case Screener, and one contracted Community Support Supervision Worker. In addition, funding of administrative, office, and operating costs for the above contracted staff position; staff training for all personnel included in the Council's initiatives and ongoing efforts; additional costs for psychiatry assessments and monitoring, medications, and community supports for special needs individuals with mental health problems; and continue the contract with Preston Corporation for a total of \$30,500 in 2003. The proposed budget for 2003 includes a base levy of \$75,000 (same as in 2002), 2002 carry-over funds of \$40,975, and \$99,325 in added tax levy for a total of \$215,300.

**Discuss the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)**

Kutz distributed information from the State's website on general HIPAA information. HIPAA passed in 1996 with bipartisan and widespread support of the healthcare industry. Its primary purpose is ensuring the portability and continuity of health insurance, particularly when

individuals change jobs. A lesser-known aspect of the law is the Administration Simplification provision. This provision is implemented through federal regulations issued by the Department of Health & Human Services. Its purpose is to reduce the costs of the administration of health care by encouraging increased automation of billing and other transactions. Such automation is facilitated and made more affordable through standardization.

Kutz said the simplification component changes the way data is accumulated and reported to insurance companies for payment through electronic transactions. Currently, billings must be done using specific codes set up by the insurance companies. HIPAA will make it so all the payers (health plans) will have to accept the same standard information. One potential savings in the future would be that you can receive all the payment information electronically and post it to your accounts in only one step. However, all billing systems nationwide will have to change their systems to meet the new code. Kutz said all providers of health care services will also be affected.

The County's Health & Human Services Department faces a difficulty because they are classified as both a health plan and a provider in some areas. Kutz said the software for the health plan component is very expensive while the provider solution with regard to the electronic transactions is simpler. Kutz said they plant to meet the federal deadline as a provider with regard to the electronic transactions (October 2003) but they may have some problems, including with the CIP and COP programs, due to the department being classified as a health plan. Kutz added that it's very complex. He said they're looking to the state to assist with this component since they have a group of people working on these issues. The state currently does not have their work done yet with regard to Medicaid so we don't know what the codes will be. He noted that he is on a HIPAA subgroup looking into these issues and they hope to know more by their next meeting.

Esler distributed copies of a passed Columbia County resolution entitled "Synopsis: Request Wisconsin Counties Association Leadership in HIPAA Compliance Submitted by the Executive Committee." Esler expressed concerns not only with the transaction and the processing of data but also with the privacy elements. Kutz said the federal government is currently establishing penalties, which are fairly large, for privacy-related wrongdoings. Herro did not think we should be told by the federal government what to do and until they have a clearer policy, we should ignore them. Kutz had concerns with the department being labeled a health plan and he felt we should just be considered a provider. Once you are considered a health plan, it becomes much more complicated which he discussed further.

### **Update on the Health & Human Services Board's 2003 Budget Discussions**

Esler distributed copies of a memorandum dated July 17<sup>th</sup> from Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler regarding the Health & Human Services Board's budget review and the difficulties they will face, basically due to state budget cuts. Esler said this was distributed at the board's second budget review meeting. He also distributed the 2003 proposed budget summary for the department.

The memo refers to the inability of the state to provide any reasonable inflationary increases, and combined with the inflationary pressures on the human services contract agencies, this has

challenged the department's ability to meet the first request of four advisory committees which is "to do no harm." It goes on to state that the budget the board is about to review proposes the elimination of four GAMedical help in a number of areas. In addition, the budget proposes elimination of a contract for social work monitoring through St. Charles, elimination or reduction of public health clinics and contracts as well as reduction in children's services. Schuler went on to say in his memo that this has been one of the most difficult budgets he's had to prepare since he's been director of the department.

Kutz said the biggest cost area was residential providers such as group homes, primarily because they were experiencing the same health insurance increases as the County. Kutz said they wanted to increase those contracts because if some of those were to fail, the County would more than likely have to pay even more for new vendors, which has been his experience in the past. Esler said another major budget change is to reduce or eliminate many of the health clinics. Herro asked why revenues were down 25% in the Public Health Division. Kutz said this is basically because some of the tobacco money is no longer there. Esler noted that the 2003 proposed budget book will be given to the County Board at the end of September.

**MOTION:** Pronold moved, second by Seitz to adjourn at 3:07 p.m. Motion carried 6 -0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Silva  
Secretary